

The Unabomber vs. Bill Gates

by Jonathan Goldstein
(concept developed with
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Consider for a moment Bill Gates and the Unabomber. These well-known personalities are destined to encounter each other.

The Unabomber is obsessed with destroying any technology that requires a "system" to be produced. Thus a sword would be acceptable because a small village could produce a sword whereas a refrigerator would not because many large scale operations are required to put together the components of a refrigerator. The Unabomber is against these technologies because he believes that the system required to produce them inherently denies the populace personal freedom.

In order to bring these issues to the public's attention, the Unabomber has constructed sixteen mail bombs and booby traps, which he then used to try to kill people. These bomb attacks have targeted people who are pro-technology, mostly computer programmers and genetic engineers. Killing these people has most likely not had any large effect on the development of technology but it has achieved the Unabomber's goal of national attention.

Bill Gates, however, believes lit-

erally everything could be improved by implementing more technology. Bill Gates would rather have digital images of paintings on his wall than actual paintings. Bill Gates believes that getting World Wide Web access to some foreign country is just as good as actually going there. When asked whether kids who are spending all their time on a computer would benefit more from reading real books and going outside Bill Gates responded, "I would have learned more [using a computer]."

Of all the people whom the Unabomber should kill, Bill Gates is by far the most obvious. Unfortunately, at this point it would very difficult for the Unabomber to kill Bill Gates for several reasons. First of all, the Unabomber promised not to kill anyone once his manifesto was included in an issue of The Washington Post. The Unabomber would then seem intellectually inconsistent if he went ahead and killed Bill Gates. Although intellectual consistency is important to the Unabomber, he should make this one exception since Bill Gates is so perfect for him to kill.

Another problem is that the Unabomber would have to modify

his method of assassination in order to kill Bill Gates using a bomb. I somehow doubt that Bill Gates opens his own mail. Even if the piece of mail was extremely important (and expected), I don't think that Bill Gates would open it himself.

There is only one circumstance I could think of in which Bill Gates would open a package. If the Unabomber were able to replace one of Bill Gates wedding gifts with a bomb, Bill Gates might open it. It would almost be a sure bet if he was able to replace a gift from someone impor-

tant (Warren Buffet, the second richest man in America for example). Although Bill Gates wedding has passed, there are plenty of

other opportunities for using this method, such as birthdays and Christmas.

Another way that the Unabomber could use a bomb would be a sort of suicide mission. He could dress up in a uniform [sic] and deliver a candy-gram that is really a bomb (à la Blazing Saddles). But not only does this have quite a slim chance of working, it is not the Unabomber's

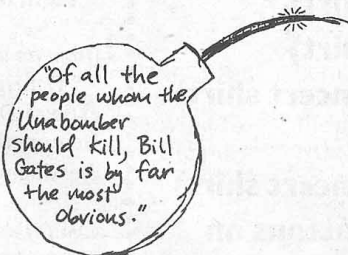
style. Other modes of assassination that would contradict the Unabomber's style are snipers, poison and knives. Basically anything that would require him to come face to face with his victim is out.

Lastly, the Unabomber might be in jail. Theodore John Kaczynski, who is suspected of being the Unabomber, would have great difficulty trying to perform any sort of assassination attempts from jail. He could use some of his fans (at least those who believe Ted is the Unabomber) to attack his next victim.

I am confident that the Unabomber will eventually find some way to kill Bill Gates. It is inevitable. He eluded the entire section of the FBI that was compiled to locate him for at least 17 years. Perhaps the only reason that the FBI was able to find him was the 100+ page essay he wrote that outlined his philosophical beliefs published in a national newspaper.

So why hasn't the Unabomber killed Bill Gates yet? Maybe he is waiting for the time when Bill Gates' presence is crucial for the system to function properly. Maybe the suspect in custody is not the real Unabomber, but a decoy.

Whoever he is, we have not heard the last from the Unabomber, and whatever schemes he has planned are guaranteed to involve Bill Gates. •



Marsupial Dreams by Aaron Granlund

